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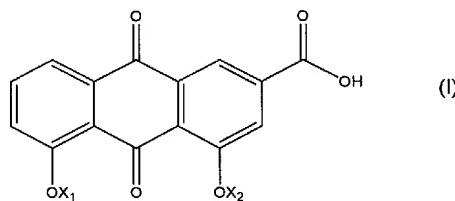
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(54) Title: ESTER DERIVATIVES OF RHEIN AND THEIR THERAPEUTIC USE



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(57) Abstract: Compounds that may have anti-inflammatory activity are of general formula (I); wherein X<sub>1</sub> is H or COR<sub>1</sub>, and X<sub>2</sub> is H or COR<sub>2</sub> but X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are not both H; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and are each C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl substituted with R<sub>3</sub>, or a four to seven-membered ring which can be optionally substituted with R<sub>8</sub> and can contain one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S(O)<sub>n</sub> and NR<sub>9</sub>; R<sub>3</sub> is F, CF<sub>3</sub>, OR<sub>4</sub>, NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>, O, S(O)<sub>n</sub> R<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are the same or different and are each H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with R<sub>3</sub>, or NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub> is a C<sub>4-6</sub> heterocycloalkyl ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, NR<sub>8</sub> and S(O)<sub>n</sub>; each n is 0-2; R<sub>7</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; R<sub>8</sub> is as defined for R<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with R<sub>3</sub> or halogen; and R<sub>9</sub> is H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; or a salt, solvate or hydrate thereof.